

Beds & Herts LMC Ltd: Update for Practices, Tuesday 30th May 2023



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1. Annual Conference of UK LMCs – 18th & 19th May 2023

The Annual Conference of UK LMCs was held on Thursday 18th and Friday 19th May 2023, as a face-to-face meeting in London. This Conference is for the four nations of the UK, and as always the Beds & Herts LMC Reps who attended spoke to various motions being debated; see our [LMC report here](#).

2. BMA/GPC publishes updated guidance on accelerated access to GP-held patient records

BMA/GPC have published guidance [here](#) on the access to records programme due to take effect on the 31st October 2023 (as part of the GP contract changes for 2023-24, which were imposed on the 1st April and are currently being challenged by GPC England).

The guidance addresses questions around key deadlines, patient communications and practical considerations to the extension of online access.

3. Workforce Data

The latest GP [workforce data](#), published last week, further demonstrates the significant decline of numbers of fully qualified GPs since September 2015. In April 2023, the NHS in England had the equivalent of 27,231 fully qualified GPs, which is 2,133 fewer than in September 2015.

Over the past year the NHS has lost the equivalent of 512 fully qualified, full-time GPs, and on a headcount basis, have lost 428 GP Partners and 149 Salaried, Locum and retainer GPs – creating a net loss of 577 individual GPs from the NHS since April 2022 – more than 1 GP per day.

This coincides with a rise in patients: as of April 2023, there was a record-high of over 62.43 million patients registered with practices in England. As a result, the average number of patients each full-time equivalent GP is responsible for continues to rise and is now 2,292. This is an increase of 355 patients per GP (or 18.3%) since 2015, demonstrating the ever-mounting workload in general practice.

Read more about the pressures in general practice [here](#).

4. BMA member briefing on the GP delivery plan

Earlier this month, NHS England and DHSC jointly published their [Delivery plan for recovering access to primary care](#), setting out how they intend to tackle the '8am rush' and make it easier and quicker for patients to access primary care services.

Whilst some of the BMA/GPC's recommendations have been incorporated into the plan, they state that 'it falls short and fails to address the severe inflationary cost pressures all practices currently face'. The GPC also raised concerns that 'the continuing cuts to public health funding and the lack of adequate investment in practices and community pharmacies will negate the commitments set out in the plan'.

Alongside the BMA/GPC's initial [press statement](#) in response to the plan's publication, they have also [produced this member briefing on the report](#).

5. Labour Party's NHS Plan – 'Building an NHS fit for the future'

Last week Sir Keir Starmer [announced the Labour Party's NHS plan *Building an NHS fit for the future*](#) referencing Labour's desire to modernise appointment systems and get salaried GPs to serve all communities. The BMA/GPC states that 'we will be writing to Sir Keir to ask how they are planning to do this, highlight the huge benefits of the independent contractor model, and offer to help shape their finer detail'.

The statement by Phil Banfield, Chair of BMA Council, in response to the plan is [here](#).

6. Annual Flu Letter

UKHSA and NHS England have published the [annual flu letter for the 2023/24 flu vaccination programme](#). BMA/GPC note that practices should be aware that there are no changes to the reimbursable vaccines from the 2022/23 programme (with further details available once the specification has been agreed and published).

Please note that the healthy 50 – 64yr cohort are no longer eligible. This was a temporary extension during the pandemic. In addition, whilst the school age programme is confirmed for children of primary school age, a decision is yet to be made regarding the inclusion of children in secondary school years 7 to 11.

7. Oliver McGowan Mandatory Training on Learning Disability and Autism

All GP practices in England must ensure their staff receive training in learning disability and autism, including how to interact appropriately with people with a learning disability and autistic people (introduced by the Health and Care Act 2022 in July last year). The government's preferred training programme is the [Oliver McGowan Mandatory Training on Learning Disability and Autism](#). However, BMA/GPC clarify that the Act does not specify a training package or course for staff and the CQC [cannot tell practices](#) specifically how to meet their legal requirements in relation to training.

NHS England and ICBs may share the government's training programme preference and encourage uptake but it is ultimately for practices to determine how their staff are trained to meet their legal requirements.

Further information from the CQC about the relevant legal requirements is available [here](#).

8. Beds & Herts LMC Evening Roadshows

Please come along and meet the team and receive some practical information on the principles of Safe Working in General Practice: what you can do, what you can't do and what others are doing. We will also have an update on the new imposed GP Contract, and in particular what it says about access, and are pleased to confirm Dr Clare Bannon, Deputy Chair of GPC England is able to attend on the 21st June.

These free events are open to all GPs and Practice Managers in Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire. Please see the below dates and venues:

- **Wednesday 21st June 2023, 7 – 9:30pm** – Kings House, 245 Ampthill Road, Bedford, MK42 9AZ
- **Wednesday 28th June 2023, 7 – 9:30pm** – Focolare Centre, 69 Parkway, Welwyn Garden City, AL8 6JG

To book your free place, please [click here!](#)

9. Level 3 Safeguarding Training Webinar – Lessons Learned from Safeguarding Reviews: Hertfordshire Programme for Fathers/Male Care Givers

Herts Only

All Primary Care colleagues are invited to join this lunchtime webinar where Amanda Merrett-Jones (ICB Designated Nurse for Safeguarding Children) and Tess Gartside (Operational Manager - Health Visiting) will provide an overview of the fathers programme of work that has been progressing over the last two years in Hertfordshire in response to the CSPR Panel Paper The Myth of Invisible Men (publishing.service.gov.uk)

The session aims to raise awareness in knowing the issues surrounding early identification of vulnerable children and families in a Primary Care setting and provide useful information and opportunity to discuss ideas.

When: Wednesday 07th June 2023

Time: 1 – 2pm

How to join: via MS Teams (link included in the attached flyer)

For more information and joining instructions, please see the [attached flyer](#).

10. Level 3 Safeguarding Training Webinar - Herts GP Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Toolkit

Herts Only

Dr Fabienne Smith (ICB Named GP for Safeguarding Children) will provide an overview of this the ICB Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Primary Care Toolkit and discuss cases to enable Primary Care colleagues to implement their own comprehensive Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence policy, covering both staff and patients affected by Domestic Abuse and/or Sexual Violence'.

When: Wednesday 14th June 2023

Time: 1 – 2pm

How to join: via MS Teams (link included in the attached flyer)

For more information and joining instructions, please see the [attached flyer](#).

News - For the latest news, information and weekly updates for practices, please visit the [Hot Topics](#) section of our website.

BHLMC Job Board - Advertise your practice vacancies or search for jobs on our [Job Board](#). If you are interested in posting an advert please contact lmadmin@bhlmc.co.uk for more information.

Locums - If you are a Locum and would like to receive LMC updates, please register via the [online form](#) to be added to our database and mailing list.

Workforce Wellbeing & Support - [Visit our webpage](#).

Contact Us:

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